

Tony Teke

Garðabær, 30. June 2025
202506-0002/I.M.B.
10.02.01

Application for a permit to use a drone within protected areas

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland has received an application from Tony Teke, dated June 2nd, 2025, for a permit to use a drone within protected areas in Iceland.

Dettifoss, Selfoss og Hafragilsfoss is protected as a natural monument, cf. regulation no. 457/1996.

Fjaðrárgljúfur is protected as a nature reserve, cf. regulation no 555/2024. It is prohibited to disturb vegetation or geological formation within the protected area. A permit from the Nature Conservation Agency must be obtained for planned events and projects that may cause disruption or require facilities, personnel, or the use of equipment within the protected area, such as for film production, art events, and gatherings.

Fjallabak is protected as a nature reserve, cf. regulation no. 354/1979. The use of unmanned aircraft (drones) within the nature reserve from June 15th – September 15th is subject to a permit from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland.

Goðafoss is protected as natural monument, cf. regulation no. 647/2020. Disturbance to vegetation, wildlife and geological formation is prohibited. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland.

Gullfoss is protected as a nature reserve, cf. regulation no. 141/1979. Disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life is prohibited. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland.

Hjálparfoss, Gjáin, Háifoss and Granni are protected as natural monument, cf. regulation no. 110/2020. Disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life in the protected area is prohibited. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland.

Hraunfossar and Barnafoss is protected as a natural monument, cf. regulation no. 410/1987. Disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life in the protected area is prohibited.

Kerlingarfjöll is protected as an area of landscape, cf. regulation no. 822/2020. Disturbance to geological formations, landscape, hot springs, other springs and ecosystems in hot springs in the protected area is prohibited.

Skógafoss is protected as a natural monument, cf. regulation no. 477/1987. Disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life in the protected area is prohibited. Photography, cinemaphotography and events that can affect visitors experience in the area are subjected to a permit from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland.

The beach at Stapi and Hellnar is protected as a nature reserve cf. regulation no. 284/1988. Disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life in the protected area is prohibited. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland.

Sigöldugljúfur, Hálsanefshellir, Kvernufoss, Seljalandsfoss, Múlagljúfur, Krafla, Hverir, Kolgrafarfjörður, Rauðaskál, Áfangagil, Bjarnarfoss and Kirkjufellsfoss are not within protected areas and are therefore not subject to a permit from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland.

Description of the project:

The project applied for is to film with a drone within the above-mentioned areas during the period of July 7th – July 24th. Maps with take-off and landing areas along with flight paths was submitted with the application.

July 7th - 9th:

Gulfoss: Flight time ~30min, altitude will be above the waterfall, 10-60m above the waterfall. Flight Path might be altered to avoid people. The flight will take place after 9PM

Kerlingarfjöll: Flight Time ~30min, altitude will be ~5-50m, take-off location will be evaluated on the site to be as far away from people. A flight will take place during the day.

July 9th - 10th:

Háifoss and Granni: Flight Time ~30min, altitude above the waterfalls and in the canyon if no birds. The flight will take place on the morning of July 9th.

Fjallabak reserve:

-North-east of the park, flight time ~40min, altitude 20-100m but mostly low altitude for pictures, early afternoon.

-Bláhnúkur/Brennisteinsalda hiking trail, flight time 30min, take-off and landing will be chosen to avoid crowd, flight altitude just above the mountains for pictures, very short higher path higher altitude for panorama pictures and avoiding people.

July 10th -13th:

Skógafoss: Flight time 2*30min (on a different day) at 8AM to avoid disturbance to tourists/people. Altitude from above the ground (10-20m) to above the waterfall (20-40m above the waterfall). The immediate proximity in front of the waterfall will be avoided due to birds' nests, flight path will be higher than the height of the waterfall.

July 13th:

Fjaðrárgljúfur: Flight time ~40min, altitude above the canyon (20-60m) and in the canyon maintaining visual line of sight. During the day.

July 19th -21st:

Goðafoss: flight time ~30min, during the day, altitude 20-60m.

Sellfoss: flight time ~30min, after 6PM, altitude 20-40m above the waterfall

July 21st -24th:

Arnarstapi: Flight time 20min and 40min, during the day, altitude above the water and up to 60m (depending on presence of birds or not).

Hraunfossar: flight time 30min altitude in the canyon for few minutes and then above the waterfall 10-40m, during the day.

Impact assessment:

Even though flights are planned in multiple protected areas, The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland considers the project to be minimal and not likely to have negative impact on the wildlife or experience of other visitors in the area, as long as the conditions of the permit are followed. At Skógafoss, filming could have negative impact on the other visitors, but the agency's assessment is that such impacts can be mitigated if the conditions of the permit are followed and filming takes place during time when fewer visitors are present in the area.

Conclusions and conditions:

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland hereby grants Tony Teke permission on its behalf permit to use a drone within the above-mentioned areas according to the description above and the map that shows the flightpaths and take-off and landing points on the following conditions:

- Keep this letter with you on site during the project.
- The applicant shall inform rangers in the area about their arrival. This is to be done 24 hours before entering the area and again before leaving it.
- If the project dates or description changes the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland shall be notified as soon as possible.
- Crew members should always stay on authorized paths/tracks/roads.
- The crew must follow rules of conduct that apply to the areas.
- If any complications occur during the project, please contact the ranger or the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland, tel. +354 556 6800.
- All disturbances to animals and wildlife are strictly prohibited.
- If the material is meant for public viewing it must be noted in the video/subtext that permission from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland was obtained for the filming/photography.
- The crew should be conscious of other guests on the sites and make sure that filming causes as little disturbance as possible to other visitors.
- An unmanned aircraft should never be flown near people. Please take precautions not to disturb people's experience, their safety or personal privacy nor the general peace of the protected areas being filmed.
- According to Icelandic law it is forbidden to fly close to cliffs where birds nest. An unmanned aircraft should never be flown near animals or birds, neither in nesting areas nor during nesting season or any other seasonal time when animals or bird habitats are considered vulnerable.
- Flight time should be kept to a minimum and flight should be avoided during the area's busiest times of the day.
- If the use of unmanned aircraft causes disturbance to wildlife in the area, its use should be ceased at once.
- The conductor of the unmanned aircraft is responsible for the aircraft within the protected area. This includes taking responsibility for any possible risk of harm to people, fauna and nature and leaving no permanent marks on the site in question. Should the aircraft crash, all components from it must be collected and removed from the area.
- For safety reasons, the pilot of an unmanned aerial vehicle must wear marked clothing so that the person can be identified.
- **It is forbidden to fly the drone in the canyon in front of the waterfall at Skógafoss due to wildlife protection, see map.**
- It is forbidden to fly drones next to bird cliffs in a closer proximity than 200 meters during nesting season.
- If falcons or eagles are seen in the area, it is not allowed to fly the drone there.

If the licensee causes damage to nature, according to art. 87 in the Nature Conservation Act no. 60/2013, the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland can, according to the Nature Conservation Act, f.e. order the licensee to fix damage to nature and vegetation and/or stop the project.

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland can according to art. 89 in the Nature Conservation Act no. 60/2013 change conditions of the permit, add new conditions or withdraw the permit to prevent damage to nature if environmental conditions change.

According to art 89. in the Nature Conservation Act no. 60/2013, the Nature Conservation Agency can withdraw the permit if conditions of the permit are not complied to.

Unmanned aircraft should take off and land in a safe distance from other visitors according to regulation 1360/2024 on unmanned aircraft.

The usage of a drone shall be according to regulation no. [1360/2024](#) on the operation of remotely piloted aircraft

Please note that according to the regulation all drones need to be registered at the Icelandic Transport Authority. You can register them at the webpage flydrone.is

Permission fee:

Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland charges a fee for processing applications for permits in protected areas based on Article 92 of Act no. 61/2013 on Nature Conservation. The fee for construction, drone flights, cinematography and/or photography is **83.200 ISK** according to art. 7. b. in the agency's tariff no. 354/2025.

Supervision:

The Nature Conservation Agency will supervise the project. The supervisor will be rangers from the Nature Conservation Agency.

Sincerely

Daníel Freyr Sigurbjargarson

advisor

Ingibjörg Marta Bjarnadóttir

advisor